- NGOs, members of civil society, social and cultural organizations, religious personalities & institutions need to play a positive role in conserving rivers.

National Adventure Award

*199. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to institute a National Adventure Award;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the steps, so far, taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) There is an existing Scheme of Government of India to give National Adventure Awards. The first Awards were given in 1994.

The National Adventure Awards (renamed as "Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards") have been instituted as the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the filed of adventure on land, sea and air. A provision has also been made for a Lifetime Achievement Award to persons who, besides individual excellence, have devoted themselves to the cause of promotion of adventure.

The Awards comprise a bronze statue, a scroll of honour, a blazer with silken tie and a case award equivalent to an amount admissible to Arjuna Awardees (presently Rs. 3.00 lakhs).

NAIS for Kerala

*200. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Kerala Government requesting to include coconut, arecanut, rubber etc. under the coverage of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the decision, if any, taken in the matter;

(c) whether Government would consider including the above agricultural commodities under the coverage of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Crops like coconut, arecanut and rubber have not been covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) mainly on account of non-availability of adequate past yield data and because of the difficulty in assessing the yield due to the multi-picking nature of these crops.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Success of BT. Cotton

1332. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the success of Bt. Cotton yield with respect to different regions and cotton producing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a number of strands and sub-generation of Bt. cotton seeds have been developed by farmer in Gujarat and other States; if so, what steps have been taken to examine the same, as to their safety, vulnerability to pests and impact on soil and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has reported that the Bt. cotton hybrids registered reduction in spray from 2 to 6 sprays across the States, with yield advantage of 2 to 4 quintals per hectare.